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January 14, 2008

Congressman George Miller
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0507

Re: *HR 2768, the S-MINER Act*

Dear Congressman Miller,

As family members of the miners killed in Utah's Crandall Canyon Mine disaster last August, we thank you for leading the way to improving miners' health and safety. HR 2768, the S-MINER Act, will address mining practices that caused our loved ones to be trapped underground, where they remain entombed to this day, and led to still more deaths of the brave men who tried to rescue them.

We traveled to Washington in October and testified before Congress to tell the story about the dangerous working conditions our miners faced, and problems that mine management allowed to exist. We asked for change to assure that our government, through MSHA, is really enforcing safety in the mining industry and not turning a blind eye to dangerous mining practices like those our miners were subjected to when the Crandall Canyon Mine collapsed and trapped them. The bill will also improve the way families are treated after a disaster occurs; no family dealing with a mine disaster should be treated poorly, like we feel we were.

As family members of miners killed while working in a coal mine, we have experienced what happens when the coal industry puts profits before miners' safety. We are glad you listened to our concerns and are taking action to prevent future mining accidents.

Even though this legislation cannot bring back our loved ones, we hope that something positive will come out of that horrific tragedy. No one should have to face what we did in August and the daily struggles every day since. We urge all members of Congress to vote for this bill.

Sincerely,

St. Anne
Rick Erickson
Shirley Erickson
Jan Marano
Lucy Erickson
Brandon Erickson
Maeda Erickson
Nelda Erickson
Marta Sanchez
Olga Sanchez
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cc: Edward B. Havas
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